THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Bad for Sleighing and Good for Ice-

It is seldom that you run across a man who

tands success as well as Joseph Arthur does.

The author of "The Still Alarm" has already

made a reasonably large fortune out of the

play, and he certainly can look for many more thousands of dollars from it before its potency

is gone, but he wears a hat of the same size he

wore when he was still knocking at the door of

riably plug hatted, with perhaps a flower in his buttonhole, but nevertheless an approach-able, affable fellow, with lots of good sense and

THE way Mr. Arthur came to write "The

Still Alarm" has often been discussed, and I

myself remember being told some months ago by a very sharp young man that this stirring

fire engine scene was not Joseph Arthur's at all, but a theft from an older melodrama. But

on this point I now have certain knowledge.

"The Still Alarm" is Indigenous to Ohio. It is Cincinnattian from its very inception. Two

years ago Joseph Arthur was a guest of the Palace Hotel in that city, and occupied a room just over the word 'hotel' in the big gilded sign on the Sixth street side. He spent three

weeks therein, most of the time closely con-fined to it by illness. Reflection and sick ped homilies were his principal diet. He often wondered what the unseen future had in store

for him, the weather being hot. The big alarm

bell on the "Gift Engine House," opposite, boomed in his ear regularly four times within

the 24 hours. It summoned the men to the

turnout' and 'hitchup' practice. Then he

would jump from his bed to watch the ani

mated picture of trained horses dashing out of

their stalls, the automatic dropping of the harness, the men sliding down brass poles, and

then the rush and roar of the departure.

One night, the idea struck him like a shot

What a scene for a play! It fairly hypnotized him. It became his constant companion. He began next day to write. First he made his

own drawing of the scene. Then he prepared models and sent them to Munn & Co., of the

Scientific American, who applied to the Patent office for confirmation of Mr. Arthur's sole

right thereto as an invention. It took a year to

do it; but the patent was granted in full, there

by establishing a precedent, as it is the only stage scene that has ever been granted a patent

in its entirety. He next formulated his plot

studied out his situations, created his characters and filled their mouths with dialogues

These are the lines upon which—in Mr. Ar-thur's opinion—all successful plays are written. He also looked well after the very essential at-

tributes "suspense" and "surprise," two of the most valuable agents in dramatic construction

most valuable agents in dramatic construction. But he did not attempt fine writing.

During the progress of the work he often ran across to the fire engine house to get points from the boys on watch and they all know him well and will tell you now that he haunted the place day and night. He conceived "Jack Manley" with a view to symbolize in him all the dientic and places and sight.

bolize in him all the dignity, nobleness and ro-manticism of the character of the modern fire

laddie. At first he named his play "The Piebeian" and had progressed as far as Gormon, the villain of the piece, who, for obvious reasons, he "caused to segregate the wires."

But before he took this license he visited the "Gifts" again and asked them if that interest

ing act could be performed without inter-

was the reply. But, said Mr. Arthur, "Suppose

your wires got out of order, how could you get

Alarm," was the answer.
"What is a still alarm?" inquired the author.

"A verbal or telephone call to a fire."
"Then," said Arthur, "The Still Alarm

shall be the title to my play," and straightway

went forth and copyrighted that title and

affixed it to his manuscript with the produc-

THERE is a peculiar fact in connection with

"The Still Alarm" that has not yet been told, and which would seem to smash once more the

traditional 13 superstition. There are just 13 letters in the title "The Still Alarm," 13 letters

New York City and just 13 weeks at the Prin-

cess' Theater, London, and closed there on

October 13 and reopened in this country No-

PERHAPS you've noticed how few accider

happened when first the cable cars began to

run in this city, and how frequent they are be-

coming now. The reason for this is probably

used to seeing the cars on the streets and do

not feel the same wholesome dread of them they inspired at first. Familiarity has bred

carelessness, if not exactly contempt, in this case. At the same time, with the multiplica-

tion of cable lines, it certainly will become necessary for slower speed than is now the rule

with the cars at crowded crossings down town

On several occasions lately I have noticed

cars on the Citizens' line arriving at the inter-

at a dangerously rapid gait. Pedestrians who

eves open for the Allegheny horse cars, the

table cars, ordinary vehicle traffic and an occa-

sional locomotive, and the spot is full of perils

ONE of the greatest aggravations in the win-

ter weather we have been having lately is that.

with dry and only moderately cold days and nights, with a splendid moon and tolerably

suggest the possibility of sleighing. If but a

couple of inches of snow would fall now there

THE ice harvest is proceeding gaily, and suffi-cient ice has been gathered in Allegheny coun-

ty by this time to assure to dwellers out of the

city a fair supply for the summer. In the case

of the icemen the absence of snow in formida

ble quantity is of course a source of rejoicing.

So, while young men and women sigh for the

ters—the icemen shout aloud their praises of

FILLED WITH FIREARMS.

The Carondelet Sails for Hayti With Ald

NEW YORK, February 14.-The steamer Car

was authentically stated during the day that 133 cases of rifles, shells and ammunition, brought here by the Red Star steamer West-ernland from Antwerp on Wednesday, had been placed on board of the Carondelet in the

early hours of the morning.

It was announced officially to-day that Henry Kunhardt, the Haytian Consul at Boston, has been removed by President Legitime.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Rev. Michael Stack.

SCRANTON, PA., February M.—Rev. Michael Stack, the well-known priest, died last night at the Lackawanna Hospital, this city. His death resulted chiefly from the effects attending the

Rev. W. S. Campbell.

BELLAIRE, February 14.—Rev. W. S. Campbell,

pastor of the Episcopal Church here and at Mar-tin's Ferry, died this evening of dropsy, aged 35 vears. The remains will be taken to his parents' home in Virginia for Interment.

William Luebbe.

Mr. William Luebbe, a son of Henry Luebbe, one of the members of the well-known firm of

Luebbe Bros., died at the home of his parents, Spring Hill, Allegheny, at 16:05 o'clock last night

Ex-Premier Cotegipe.

HIO JANERIO, February 14.—Baron de Cotegipe, recentiy Prime Minister of Brazil, is dead.

Special Telegram to The Dispatch.

for Hippolyte.

for the roads are smooth and well frozen.

clear skies, there has only been enough snow

even to the most careful.

to be found in the fact that people have bec

tion of the play.

"Oh, yes, many times the room is deserted."

Why, then, we might get a "Still

men.

fortune a few years ago.

good humor, is Joseph Arthur.

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circulation of any other in the State outside of Philadelphia, its advantages as an advertising medium will be apparent.

TERMS OF THE DISPATCH.

POSTAGE FREE IN THE UNITED STATES. DAILY DISPATCH, Per Quarter.... DAILY DISPATCH, One Month...... DAILY DISPATCH, including Sunday, one DAILY DISPATCH, including Sunday, per Quarter.
Dan't Disparch, including Sunday, one licents per week, or including the Sunday edition, at 20 cents per week.

PITTSBURG, FRIDAY, FER. 15, 1889.

TO AGENTS.

Agents wishing extras to their orders for will have to order specially what they want not later than to-day.

THE FRENCH CRISIS.

surprising, and the one which overturned infringements of rash competitors. the Floquet ministry yesterday was true to the rule of being exactly the reverse of what would be expected in other nations.

The great policy of Boulanger's party has been the revision of the constitution. Yet, which proposed to push on the bill for revision and the opposition which called for the orders and fix the prices. postponement and won.

Add to this the phenomenon of a ministry overthrown on an apparently trivial was full of significance to the French conministry had lost its majority.

What will come next no man can tell, beyond the indication that France is apparently bent on demonstrating the truth of its national proverb that "it is the unexpected which happens."

A rather interesting item appeared yeswhich are to be paid for by the producers | as the combination effort shall last. out of a certain percentage of their make them independent of the Standard.

This is virtually the plan of action which THE DISPATCH has long urged upon the producers, with the exception that we have newcested a greater scope in making the organization encourage the establishment of crossings bill, was largely a conflict of independent refineries. It is plain that if a special interests. The opposition came competing pipe and tank system were es- | mainly from the the Allegheny City memtublished, so long as the Standard retained | bers, obviously from a fear that their city its position as the controlling purchaser of might get into the second class before its erude petroleum, it could freeze out the in- grade-crossing problem is settled. Yet at dependent element by the leverage of that | present the bill does not apply to Allegheny; power. But if, simultaneously with the ex- while Pittsburg, at least, retains its usual refineries are stimulated-not only by the subject of grade crossings. encouragement of the existing ones, but by
efforts to establish new ones—the interest

On the face of it, the provision of the
bill, dividing the cost of changing streets

eries. Now it relies upon its control of the chaser of crude to maintain its supremacy. to secure its freedom. This was, as we un- fore remedying the evil. derstand, the original purpose of the Producers' Protective Association; and if a new neainst the danger which perverted the presence among them of agents of the monopoly and their schemes to delude the independent interest into playing the great cornoration's game.

How much foundation there is for the report we do not know; but we should be glad to see the petroleum producers embarking in a fair stand-up fight to secure their independence. It would be a hard fight unquestionably; but on the lines indicated it would be a winning one in the end.

A WHOPPER, SURELY.

Notwithstanding the recent enlightenment which the British public has had from Prof. Bryce, Max O'Rell and other observing visitors upon the institutions and tendencies in the United States, there is still, evidently, a large capacity on the part of Cousin John to believe wonderful stories about our politics. The most remarkable of late yarns gotten up for his benefit is a tale that "wealthy Republicans" propose raising \$300,000,000 to bribe the Canadians into annexation. How anyone could be foolish enough to swallow this it is difficult to conceive; but British credulity must be equal to the task, or responsible papers at Montreal would not give currency to the report

in a long cablegram from London, It has been the fashion, and to some extent is yet, with a certain class of English writers and speakers to make much capital about bribery on this side; yet it is seriously to be doubted if there is more, or as much, of that in our national politics as is practiced even under the boasted British system. No doubt "influence," occasionally pernicious, has a good deal too much to do in our legislation, and as a matter of course also in civil service appointments, but money considerations are a different thing, in kind at

least, if not in character. But if Cousin John were so simple as to approse for a moment that \$300,000,000 of bribery in a single transaction could be undertaken by "wealthy Republicans" of the United States, the slightest reflection might suffice to convince him that Yankee business shrewdness would forbid the paying of any such sum for the Canada whistle.

A GRAVE UNDERTAKING.

In this neighborhood, as far as our observation extends, the undertakers are responsible men, skilled in their important and necessary, but not very agreeable, business, State Association of Undertakers has cost | business. into the Ohio Legislature a bill to provide | But the lawyers still had a card to play.

for the appointment by the Governor of a A first-class city lawyer would never have commission of three practical funeral direc- suffered five-sixths of the estate to remain tors, before whom all undertakers must pass | intact on the first bout; but the rural advoand secure a license before embarking in cates made up for their primary neglect by the business.

The only reason publicly assigned for this

action is that many undertakers unskillfully against the public health to call for some reform. But it is hinted that other forces are behind the bill. There has been a tendency in Ohio, we are told, to regard undertaking as a last resort. A statesman for instance who has failed of his ambition and to whom the trough of official pap is no relief in burying his tellow men. The burial of his hopes, perhaps, suggests the appropriateness of this departure. The poet, whose sweet songs of the unnatural editor, the tailor who trusts not wisely but too much, the doctor who kills more often than he cures, and, in short, all sorts and conditions of men who have never felt success' smile, are said, in Ohio, to turn with shocking eagerness to assisting mortal clay to its last resting place. Consequently the profession of undertaking is embarrassed by the abundance of its practitioners, and the direction of Ohio's funerals has become a prey to ex-Saturday, Sunday and Monday's DISPATCH, cessive competition. The proposed law will doubtless prove a timely remedy; Ohio's undertakers will once again be happy and select; and the vested right of charging a dollar for each pair of ten-cent gloves worn France's political upheavals are always by bearers will move along undisturbed by

The formation of the Sewer Pipe Trust, which is to control the manufacture of those useful articles for drainage purposes. in the vote yesterday, it was the ministry is announced, with the familiar feature of a central corporation which is to distribute

This is the fashionable method of remedying the recent prevalence of prices too low to suit the manufacturers. But our friends question of consideration, and the results of the manufacturers should consider what French politics seem at this distance to be means they have of making the remedy a paradoxical. Of course, however, the vote permanent one. If we are not mistaken there was a sewer pipe pool some years ago, testants, and was vital in showing that the | which held up prices just long enough to attract new concerns into the business, and

smash prices worse than before. If the new combination has any method of keeping new concerns out of the trade, it may sustain prices above the natural level fixed by competition. But in default of any such lever every advance in prices above the level at which the present concerns have done a living business for some years, will terday asternoou, in the shape of a reported | be a direct premium to the building of new plan to organize the producers of crude pe- fac ories, with the result of cut prices and troleum into a corporation, the shares of further subdivision of the business so long

Our trusting friends should take care lest production. This property the corporation | in casting out what seems to them to be the is expected to convert, as opportunity occurs | devil of competition, some other devils into pipe lines, tanks and other means to worse than the first do not enter in and

THE GRADE CROSSINGS BILL.

The rather warm discussion in the House of Representatives vesterday, on the grade tension of competing pipe lines, competing attitude of sublime indifference to the whole

can be placed on a basis of independence | now crossing railroads at grade, seems to which will, in time, enable it in the lan- be as equitable a compromise as is practicaguage of the report, to "give the Standard | ble. There may be some ground in the criticism of a Philadelphia member that When the Standard had control of the the provision with regard to new streets puts lever of railway discrimination it was able a check on the opening of streets in city to choke off competing pipe lines and refin. suburbs. But if we are to get rid of the danger of grade crossings, it is clear that pipe lines and its power as the chief pur- new streets should be kept clear of them. It is the worst possible economy to let a new With opposition to it in both branches of street cross a railroad at grade and wait unthe industry, the petroleum business ought | til both traffic and damages are heavy, be-

The worst fault of the bill that can be discerned by the newspaper summaries is that organization is started it will have to guard it is practically special legislation for Pittsburg and Philadelphia. If the princiformer movement-just as a similar evil ples on which grade crossings shall be abolstrangled the South Penn-namely, the ished can be enacted into law, there is no reason why their operation should be confined to these two cities. The law should be based on such broad and general justice that it can apply to every municipality in the State where there is any need for it. Nor is the need for it any greater now in the two large cities than in the dozen smaller ones. We doubt if either Philadelphia or Pittsburg have more dangerous grade crossings than those on the main streets of Alle-

> gheny and Harrisburg. It is hardly the right remedy for a danger of such widespread character, to put the two bigger cities in safety and to let the slaughter go on in the rural districts.

GAMBLING WITH FOOD.

Wheat is again turned into a gambling product, the manipulators at Chicago having squeezed the market up to about \$1 10. There is not any change in the statistical position of wheat and the advance is purely the result of manipulation.

If no one but the gamblers in wheat were caught by this class of brace game, the public would not care very much. But the legitimate work of bringing wheat from the producers to the consumers is blocked by every such squeeze, and the greatest damage is inflicted on both producers and consumers.

A specimen of the way in which this gambling is made the excuse of extortion is shown by the promptness with which Western millers advanced the price of flour the day of the advance in wheat. When wheat went down from the \$1 10 level last fall the millers did not reduce flour; but when it goes up, the price of bread to the workmen of the country is put up with it.

The New York Sun's remark that "if wheat has ceased to be a food and become a gambler's plaything the people can eat corn" is pertinent. But it should be added that when wheat ceases to be food for the people it ought to become food for some very earnest and fruitful thinking.

LEGAL ECONOMY. The ingenuity of the law's methods in

prolonging the dreary course of litigation has long been the subject of satirists; but the novelty of a device for increasing the cost of legal proceedings just developed in Dutchess county, New York, leaves all the satires in the shade. It seems that an estate inventorying some \$18,000 at first, had just got through probate at a legal cost of \$3,000. and we have never heard that they or the | Considering that perhaps \$300 worth of actpublic have deemed it essential that an ex- ual work had been done by the nine lawyers amination on technical matters should make | connected with the case, this was quite modit less easy for a man to become a funeral erate, and the owners of the property would director. In Ohio, however, it appears that have been lucky if they could have taken a different condition of affairs exists. The the remaining, \$15,000 and gone about their

the subsequent master-stroke of policy. They realized the unprofessional course of letting \$15,000 out of an \$18,000 estate go to handle bodies infected with contagious dis- its rightful owners without further diminu eases. This, indeed, is a sufficient threat | tion; and they summoned the extraordinary powers of equity to their aid by serving an injunction on the executors forbidding them

to pay exorbitant legal charges. That settles the fate of the estate, or a considerable share of it. By the time that the question is argued before masters, argued before courts, argued on appeals, with all the longer accessible, has been known to seek variations of hearings to take testimony, stenographic reports and the remainder of the costly resorts of equity practice, the heirs to that estate may regard their \$15,000 as a vanished dream, and will only be able to wish never get beyond the waste basket that they might dream again that they were able to get off with only \$3,000 legal

The legal mind has evolved a great many striking ideas; but it never turned out a more audacious and delicate bit of satire than throwing an estate into equity litigation on the plea of cutting off excessive legal charges.

THE river wall and park, as a means of beautifying the lower part of the city, will meet a long-felt want. It would be difficult to name anything that the district adjacent to the Point needs more than a considerable addition to its negative stock of beauty.

It is regarded by the Providence Journal as a subject for sarcasm that the Presidentelect can appoint Warner Miller to the department of pumpkin-seeds and crop reports. But could not our esteemed cotemporary find some targets for its wit in the Democratic party which enacted the bill in order that Hon. Norman J. Colman might have a Cabinet position for two weeks after lobbying for it, lo, hese many years?

THE report which comes up from New Orleans that Evangeline Rice and Adonis Dixey lost \$8,000 at poker in that town sounds stunning; but before taking stock in it the public had better inquire how much water there is in that \$8,000.

SENATOR PLUMB declares indignantly that the Creek lands might have been bought several years ago for 75 cents an acre, if Mr. Cleveland had seen fit to respect the will of Congress. The public may not regard it as an unpardonable fault that the owners of the land should get something nearer their value than that price, although of course Senator Plumb and the land grab-

THE report that the firms who have spent so much money to maintain their patents on barbed wire are themselves infringing on a French patent of 1865, is calculated to make the business of patent litigation experience

THE news that Perry Belmont is unable to penetrate in to the circles of royalty in Spain on account of the omission to notify the Spanish Government of the withdrawal of his predecessor, according to etiquette, is firing the Democratic heart. What are our boasted liberties worth if the effete royalty of Spain can keep a Democratic millionaire at arm's length on such frivolous pretexts.

THE finding in the police case has a general resemblance to the Scotch verdict of "not proven;" but the assailants of the police insinuate something about a change of

A YOUNG woman in Harrisburg is reported to think that she is in Heaven. This s taken as proof positive that she is out of her senses, as she is still in Harrisburg. But it may be worth while to remember that almost any change from the normal conditions in Harrisburg would be likely to appear a transition in the direction, at least,

It is comforting to know that after some months of researches into cotemporary Irish history, the Parnell Commission has at last got within sight of the alleged Parnell letters.

"GOVERNOR HILL had nothing to say re garding his alleged 'snub' at the White House," remarks the Chicago Herald. Hadn't he, indeed? Then there is a misapprehension, as to that remark about Randall as "the greatest living Democrat" being a deadly stab by the snubbee into the snubber's adipose tissue.

THAT valued policy bill rises again in the Legislature to plague the insurance com-

MR. GILLETTE'S determination to dramatize "Robert Elsmere" without the consent of the author is not very wise. There are plenty of other subjects on which he can exercise his talent. Let him dramatize "The Descent of Man." We are sure that Darwin will not object.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

MR. RUSKIN persists in using candles for il uminating purposes at night. THE German Emperor has started an elabrate daily "Court Circular." which he edits

nimself. LORD SALISBURY has expressed himself as being ready to propose a grant of £15,000 a year for Prince Albert Victor whenever his Royal

Highness desires to marry. HON, JOHN DALZELL left Washington last evening for a brief business visit to New York. He will return to the capital by way of Pittsburg, where he will be Saturday and Sunday. M. JACQUES, who was defeated by General alanger in the Paris Parliamentary election the other day, was once a college professor. Failing at that, he became a successful dis-

tiller. THE Emperor of China, a boy of 17, has a serious hesitation in his speech, and speaks with considerable difficulty. He is quiet in disposition, but very obstinate when once he has formed an opinion.

COLONEL "DAN" LAMONT was an expert on the subject of pie before he ever began his now famous series of pastry seances at the White House. He was steward of his club at Union College, and an uncommonly shrewd steward, too. A privilege enjoyed by members of the club was that of abstaining from any of the delicacies of the table, receiving in exchange a rebate from the weekly assessment. A student from Vermont, who did not particularly enjoy pastry, one day announced that he would henceforth eat no pie, but, instead, would draw 5 cents a day from the treasury. Lamont's eyes twinkled when he heard the ment, but he said nothing. The next day at dinner he had chicken ple, the next oyster ple, the next veal pie, and so on for a fortnight. The victim made no complaint, but at last his patience gave out, and he left the club in high dudgeon. Thereafter when any member an

Rough on the Young Napoleons New York, February 14.—Justice O'Brien, in the Supreme Court to-day, denied without comment the motion made on behalf of Henry S. Ires and George H. Stayner for a change of venue in the big suit brought against them by the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton railroad.

A New Rank for New Orleans. WASHINGTON, February 14.—The Controlle of the Currency to-day authorized the Amer-ican National Bank of New Orleans, La., to be-gin business with a capital of \$200,000. THE YORKTOWN IS ALL RIGHT.

A Thorough Test Proves Her a Model of How a Modern Melodrama Was Born-The New Terrors of the Cable-Weather Stendiness and Speed.

PHILADELPHIA, February 14.—The United States steel gunboat Yorktown returned this morning from her trial cruise down the Delaware Bay and out into the ocean. Commodore Fitzhugh spoke generally in high praise of the craft. On Wednesday a run was made straight away out to sea, and in coming back the York-town made a run of four hours with a 40-knot breeze dead-on and behaved admirably. Captam Steel says she did not roll or pitch, and he never had a vessel that was more plumb or steady. In another four hours' run she made an aver

Just now you may see a good deal of Mr.
Arthur if you will by dropping into the Bijou
Theater any evening. A man rather above the
middle height, dressed handsomely and invaage of 15.85 knots per hour, or about 20 miles, thus proving her to be a very fleet ocean craft, as well as a remarkably steady one. The engines of the Yorktown proved to be perfect as well as a remarkably steady one. The engines of the Yorktown proved to be perfect marvels for steadiness and power. Each engine on a regular test marked 157 revolutions a minute, implying a horse power far ahead of the contract requirements, but the exact sum of which cannot be given for some days, or until all the indicator cards can be computed and differentiated. The ship was tried in every conceivable way, in river, bay and ocean, and was particularly maneuvered by Captain Steel, under the command of Commodore Fitzhugh, as if engaged in Battle. She answered every movement of the helm promptly, and moved with a most satisfactory celerity, all the time steady and solid, so that guns might be used with the very best effect in action.

One of the marvels of these maneuvers was the starting of the Yorktown ahead at full speed and backing her at full speed. This feat was accomplished in I minute and 57 seconds, an extracrdinary result under any circumstances. While at sea the sails were tested, and it was found that in this particular the ship was as trim and complete as in any other. The officers and crew, from the Commodore down to the stokers, are loud in their praise of the Yorktown, and they believe that she will prove the pride of the new American nays, at least until the mammoth cruisers. Baltimore, Philadelphia and Newark shall come forth to bear the American flag.

Commodore Fitzhugh promptly announced the general result to the Secretary of the Navy. There seems to be no doubt that his report will be entirely favorable, and that the gunboat Yorktown will be accepted and prepared at once to receive her command.

SWELL SOCIETY IN CHINADOM. The Belles of the Almond-Eyed Coterie of New York Enjoying Life. SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.1

NEW YORK, February 14.-A series of feasting and social gatherings of the Chinese ladies of New York began last evening. They will last for a week, and no man will be admitted. Young Mrs. Yuet Sing gave a 5 o'clock tea at the Whey Yuhg Lo restaurant. The entire second story was gaily decorated with red and rellow bunting and lanterns, and a long table was heaped full with the imported goodies from the Motherland. A big red card was conspicthe Motherland. A big red card was conspicuously posted at the foot of the first landing of the restaurant, warning male patrons not to profane the occasion by their presence. Only a single male attendant, the head waiter, was allowed in their presence, to wait upon them. The other attendants were the Chinese maids of Mrs. Woo Kee, pretty Mrs. Linn Kivong On and Mrs. Lee Ah Cham. They were maids of several sizes and shades of colors, dressed in short togas with great wide sieeves and spacious, black silk trousers, hatless and apronless, each having a neat black cue tied with ribbons. These and the frolicsome children furnished the only life amusements to the guestz. each having a neat black cue tied with ribbons. These and the frolicsome children furnished the only life amusements to the guests. When a lady entered the hostess greeted her by rising and lapping one big sleeve over the other, and gently bowed her whole body two or three times and singing. There were present nearly a dozen of these rich ladies. After mutual exchanging of courtesies, the hostess ordered tea in tiny little cups in silver saucers? Then the famous "suay yen," or water smoke, in long gittering Turkish pipes of white copper was served by the maids to each guest. This is the fashionable smoke of the ladies of China. It is a mild perfumed species of tobacco. was served by the maids to each guest. This is the fashionable smoke of the ladies of China. It is a mild perfunned species of tobacco. About 6 o'clock the feast began in the same style as the feasts of the men, only that the wines, of which there are several brands, were milder than used by the men. The wines were drunk in sips, while the ladies partook of the chow chop swey, sharksfins, and pigeon feet, etc. It is at this time that the real sociability of these ladies begins.

Six hours are usually allowed for such dinners. All the ladies and their children were dressed in the height of fashion of 3,000 years ago, like a lot of big and little butterflies around a spring daisy. Every one wore costly diamonds, but the principal ornaments were jet.

PROHIBITION IN IOWA.

State Almost Crimeless. in the author's name, Joseph A. Arthur, 13 people exactly in the caste. It ran 13 weeks in WASHINGTON, February 14.-Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, to-day addressed the Senate in support of the bill relating to imported liquors, in-1887, reported back adversely from the Judiciary Committee on the 19th of March, 1888 and then placed on the calendar. The bill reads: "The consent of Congress is hereby given that the laws of the several States re-lating to the sale of distilled and fermented iquors within the limits of each State may lating to the sale of distilled and fermented inquors within the limits of each State, may apply to such liquors when they have been imported, in the same manner as when they have been manufactured in the United States."

Mr. Wilson dwelt at considerable length on the beneficent effect of the anti-saloon law in Iowa, quoting the opinion of Judges as to the remarkable reduction of crime since the law had gone into operation. He quoted one of the Judges as saying in regard to his judicial district: "In many of the counties the jail is almost an unnecessary building. In the last three counties visited there was not an occupant of the jail." He spoke of the illiteracy of Iowa having been brought down to 10% per cent, Iowa being thus placed, he said, "at the head of the educational column, not only of this country, but of the world." Such a State might hope fully to remove the district construction, which alone stood as one obstruction in the way of the rightful exercise of her police in the way of the rightful exercise of her police

> ully suppress crime within her borders.
>
> No action was taken on the bill, which still ains on the calendar TENNESSEE'S OPINION, TOO. Particular in Which Philadelphia and

wers, by which removal she could su

Other Cities is Surpassed by Pittsburg. would be good sleighing all over the country, From the Nashville, Tenn., American.] Philadelphia is usually looked upon as the etropolis of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but when it comes to publishing live newspapers, she must turn the throne over to Pittsburg. THE DISPATCH, of the latter city, is altogether the best newspaper that reaches the American's exchange editor-and this, not joys of sleighing-of which they have in this neighborhood seen little for two or three winonly from the State of Pennsylvania, but from anywhere. It is about the most carefully edited paper we know of, and, barring its politics, is the most acceptable journal, in every detail, that we know anything of.

POSTAGE STAMP FAMINE,

Time Lock Safe in the Baltimore Office Will Not Open.

BALTIMORE, February 14.-Baitimore rowly escaped a famine of pestage stamps, as the combination lock on the stamp safe in the postoffice refused to work properly yesterday morning. An expert was at work all last night and to-day on the safe, but it withstood every effort made to open it, and it is probable that the front plates of the door will have to be removed, which will take a week's work. Cashier Nicodemus went to Washington this morning and brought over a supply of stomps. Nicodemus went to Washington this morning and brought over a supply of stamps.

Paymasters to Meet Soon. WASHINGTON, February 14,-A reun the paymasters of the army who served during the War of the Rebellion will be held here at the Ebbitt House on March 5. The address of the Secretary is Colonel Thomas H. Gardner, No. 1006 F street, northwest, Washington, D. C. A Pointer for Poets.

From the New York Evening Sun.] A well-known English poet has a mind reader who sits opposite him and takes down his poems in shorthand as he thinks them.

AT CHEYENNE.

the Lackawanna hospital, this city. His death resulted chiefly from the effects attending the bursting of a pipe while taking a vapor bath in a medical establishment here some weeks ago. Some years ago Father Stack was pastor of St. Jonn's Catholic Church, at Williamsport, but was deposed from his pastorate by Bishop O'Hara, of the S-ranton diocese, because of certain church difficulties in which he disputed the authority of the bishop, and which culminated in the celebrated Stack-O'Hara case, which was tried in ecclesiastical and civil courts and afterward appealed, without result, to Pope Leo XIII., the case becoming a world-wide question. Although Father Stack and the bishop were afterward reconciled, the latter would not restore him to his parish or assign him a new one in the diocese. During his illness he was ministered to by two priests from the Cathedrai parish, under direction of the bishop, and he received the last rites of the church previous to death. Private funcral services were held to-day under the direction of Bishop O'Hara, whose authority Father Stack had so long defied. Young Lochinvar came in from the West With fringe on his trousers and fur on his vest; The width of his hat brim could nowhere be beat His number ten brogans were chock full of feet; His girdle was horrent with pistols and things. And he flourished a handful of aces on kings The fair Mariana sate watching a star.

When who should turn up but the young Lochin var: Her pulchritude gave him a pectoral glow And he reined up his hoss with stentorial

"whos,"

And turned on the maiden a rapturous grin

And modestly asked if he mightn't step in. With presence of mind that was marvelous quite The fair Mariana replied that he might; So in through the portal strode young Lochinvar Pre-empted the claim and cleaned out the bar;

Though the Justice allowed he wa'n't wholly to He taxed him ten dollars and costs just the same. -Eugene Field, in the Chicago News.

DUTY OF EATING.

An English Writer Claims That Distante for Food is a Phase of Barbarism-Conxing the Appetite-The Affectation of Under Enting-Fasting Too Long and Then Enting Too Much a Great Mistake. From the London Standard. 1

The Duty of Eating is the moral of a dis

course which one of our medical cotemporaries addresses this week to the conscience of the abstemious. It is impossible to dispute the existence of the evil at which the physician preacher points the finger of blame. There is in these days a deplorable lapse from the healthy standard of rude appetite. "Many people," as the writer remarks only too truly, "do not know what it is to have a keen relish for food." Women, it is notorious, are the worst and most persistent offenders. A cup of tes and a morsel of toast in the morning, a roll and butter at noon, and the merest affectation of interest in soup, entree, and joint at dinner. make up the dietary of many ladies who pretend to fashion and feeling. It is only sweetsand these not always-that kindle anything like earnestness and enthusiasm. We hardly needed professional admonition to make it plain that this shirking of honest fare is unwise. The novelty lies in the severity with which the doctor dons the gown of the moralist Without sufficient food," we are told, "neithe man nor woman can be happy or well," and as it is an obvious duty to enjoy life and do one's share in the world's work, it follows that we are under the most solemn obligation to take an adequate amount of nourishment. Our teacher, however, it must be owned, takes up his parable against the prevailing tendency to his parable against the prevailing tendency to meager diet in the kindliest and most helpful spirit. He will not hear of the doctrine of in-eradicable depravity. Those who err may work out their own reformation, and that with-out the slightest consciousness of painful

Can the Appetite be Conved?

"Eating is a duty"—granted; but eating, he can to affirm, ought to be a pleasure also It lies in every one's power to master his re pugnance to the creature comforts of the table. "The appetite," it is laid down with an artistic disregard for verbal accuracy, "can be coaxed and trained as well as any other part of of barbacism. "The woman who, without being ill, refuses to take reasonable meals is on precisely the same intellectual level as the savage who refuses to be worried with the dis savage who refuses to be worried with the discomfort of clothes." But what is the poor sinner to do? How is she to take the first step up the ladder of civilization? How is she, in fine, to learn to eat? The answer is—by eating. Whether she likes it or not, she must sit down and empty her plate. The expert pledges his reputation that there is no danger in eating a fair quantity three or four times a day, even though appetite be wanting and digestion be impaired. And he would make the path of the returning transgressor not only safe but pleasant. Secure "appetizing" food; persevere with it, and repugnance will before long convert itself into liking. There is a fascinating simplicity about the plan that is almost irresistible.

Old Maxims Set Aside. The counsel tendered will, at any rate, be most welcome to a large class who do not par-ticularly stand in need of a stimulus. Rightly or wrongly, the bon vivant will interpret the advice as a sanction to his spontaneous tastes Hitherto, the epicure and gourmet have enjoyed themselves with fear and trembling. The tags of the moralists and the precepts of the doctors have all been at the service of the ascetics. The schoolboy who sees his slim sister struggling conscientiously with "a fair quantity of food three of four times a day," will feel himself more than ever entitled to have a good "stuff" at the pastry cook's after he has done his duty by the leg of mutton and suct pudding at home. The most prudent of Scotchmen will for once indulge in that forbidden dream of bliss—as much haggis as he would like to have. No doubted the blast that would like to have. No doubted the blast that has been sounded against the pernicious practice of starving could not logically be interpreted as an incitement to the opposite extreme of gluttony. But to those who have imbibed the traditional teaching of the doctors on the subject of meat and drink, the open disrespect shown to the authority of hunger must be demoralizing. "Eat not to live, but live to eat," might be construed to enjoin an adequate menu. But how can we possibly get over the time-honored maxims that we should rise from table hungry; that we should never eat unless we have an appetite; that dyspepsia Senator Wilson Says It Has Made the eat unless we have an appetite; that dyspepsia is the sure proof, and chastisement, either of error or excess?

Physiology is not the most graceful of themes but it will not, we trust, offend any one's fas tidiousness, if we recall the trite rule that when the stomach goes wrong the only thing is to give it a holiday and let it recruit its lost It is a revolutionary age, and m nothing is the revolt from prescription more striking than in this repudiation of the stand-ing dogma of the hygienists of the last generation. "Stinting," perhaps, will have its turn once again. The lay word has to accommodate itself to the whims of the physicians. Port wine has been in and out of favor within the life of many who like to think themselves young. Alcohol has been commended and young. Alcohol has been commended and abused; prescribed and vetoed; till at last, the patient, in mere desperation, is reduced to giving up champagne, if it was his one delight, and sipping Scotch whisky, if he has a rooted aversion to spirits. The new dogma on the subject of hearty meals is of neutral complexion. On the other hand it peremptorily orders people to eat who would very much sooner last, but on the other, it directs that the food shall be made tempting. If only the benevolent physician who lays down laws for us had imparted the secret of giving a zest to the palate, he would complete his services to feeble humanity. The best sauce, according to the Latin Delectus, is hunger; but supposing hunger is lacking, what condiment can be found to take its place? The confirmed dyspeptic will be sceptical about the possibility of surviving the discipline of surfeit to which our contemporary lightly invites him. The instindity of the dish lies in the palate that has to taste it. Where is the savour to come from it, instead of craving, there be loathing? There is the difficulty, and, with all respect for the new teaching, we cannot help thinking that conscience, in such cases, is a very bad stimulus to appetite.

Girls and Grandmothers Compared. Where under-eating is a matter of habit, or fashion, or affectation, or caprice, the warning given by our cotemporary is one that ought to lead to better ways. It is not, however, the quantity eaten, but the manner of eating, that saddens the heart of the observer of nineteenth century civilization. The poor figure which our girls cut at the dinner table-in comparison with what their grandmothers vere, or, viewed through the mellowing lapse of time, are popularly adjudged to have been —is rather a symptom than a cause of ill. They are captions about their food because they are too often frivilous in their lives. They spe too often frivilous in their lives. They spend the morning in an armchair, over the latest novel, instead of woong health and good looks by a good long walk. They have got it into their foolish heads that it is rather an interesting than a discreditable thing to be delicate, and the result is that they get into a way of living on a few spoonfuls of soup and a helping ot souffle pudding. Their father, in his way, leads a life just as little in accordance with the dictates of nature. He gets up in time to hurry off (by train, of course) to his office; he puts aside his briefs or his papers to have a hasty snack, returns to work, drives home in time to dress for dinner, and devotes to that most complex and most tedious of functions the poor remnant of an appetite which ought to have "lived and thrived" on reasonably organized repasts in the carlier hours of the day.

The Mistakes of some People.

The Mistakes of Some People. The total consumption of food in Great Britain is, probably, far in excess of the requirements of healthy existence; it is the dis tribution of it that is faulty. The average citizen fasts too long, and then eats too much and too quickly. To do him justice, he is quite con scious of the mistaken arrangement of his life. But it is not he who made society and its usages. He was born into life, and must take things as they come; and, in spite of all the re-monstrances of doctor, he will go on doing what he knows to be hygienically wrong, but what he knows to be hygically wrong, but finds on business grounds to be inevitable. The smaller class of people, who might make good meals if they chose, and perversely and obstinately trifie with the serious business of eating, may possibly be affected and converted by the vigorous appeal to their conscience. In this case there is no fatal bent to struggle with. Children are unaffectedly devoted to the dethis case there is no fatal bent to straggle with. Children are unaffectedly devoted to the delights of eating and drinking, ind it only remains for their parents and guardians, while keeping them up to the desired standard of generous fare and healthy living, to follow

From the New York Tribune.]

is estimated at \$1,000,000. It is to be hoped, for the sake of their own peace of mind, that when the German people contem-plate these figures they feel moved to exclaim philosophically, "Emperors come high, but we must have them."

The annual income of the young Germs

TALK OF THE METROPOLIS.

Merely a Million Involved.

[NEW YORK BUREAU SPECIALS.] NEW YORK, February 14.-Carmon Parse and the Freemasons of the Jerusalem Lodge, Plainfield, are contesting the will of Mrs. Sarah Margaret Latimer, who died two weeks ago. Mrs. Latimer left an estate worth \$1,000,000. Mrs. Latimer originally made a will in which Mr. Parse was made executor, and several thousand dollars were bequeathed to Jerusa-lem Lodge. A few months after the execution of this will Mr. Parse advised Mrs. Latimer to invest \$40,000 in a certain copyright. She did it. Mrs. Latimer subsequently became convinced that Mr. Parse had induced her to make a poor investment. She destroyed her old will and made a new one in which she entirely ignored Mr. Parse and the Jerusalem Lodge. In the present contest Mr. Parse claims that the copyright investment was better than Mrs. Latime supposed, and that her erroneous idea of its value infinenced her unduly in the disposition of her property. The Jerusalem Lodge takes the same ground.

Four Murderers to be Tried. Four indicted murderers were brought to the bar in Court of General Sessions to-day. John Flynn, the youngest prisoner, is 26 years old. He cut his father in the arm with a penknife, and the old man bled to death. John Burke stabbed Michael Moore in the stomach at a christening party. Moore died. Daniel Sullivan kicked Frederick Michael to death during political discussion two days before election. zie Hughes, gray-baired and wrinkled, threw her roommate, Annie Fox, down a flight of stone steps, fracturing her skull. Three of the murderers will be tried immediately. The

According to the postal officials, the memory of St. Valentine was but little honored to-day. Six years ago double the average daily amount of mail matter was handled in the postoffice on St. Valentine's Day. Extra men were employed to distribute it. Since then there has been a big decrease every year. The mails were hardly any larger than on other days. An Inanue Deserted Woman's Act.

Mrs. Sophie Buck threw her 4-months-old child out of a third-story window, this morn-ing. The baby landed on a heap of small wood and scrap iron in the court. Its cries brough the neighbors to its rescue. A slight scalp wound and a scratch or two on the back were the child's only injuries. Mrs. Buck was taken to an asylum. Her husband's desertion made

Found Floating and Frozen. Early this morning two boatmen found a awl drifting across the bay near the Narrows.

On the bottom of the vawl lay a coatless and atless man, frozen tight in the ice which had occumulated in the boat. He was taken ashore badly frozen. He said he went on a spree in Brooklyn last night, but had no idea of how he got into the middle of the bay. A PLEASANT VARIETY.

Guests of the Allegheny Comn Knights Templar Enjoy it.

The third entertainment of the Drill Corps of the Allegheny Commandery No. 35, Knights Templar, held at Lafayette Hall last evening. was a very pleasing success.

The musical and literary selections, which were rendered during the evening, made up a programme that was not only artistic, but at programme that was not only artistic, but at
the same time amusing and entertaining.

While Prof. Byron W. King commanded the
attention of the audience with some clever
recitations, Miss Phillips delighted her listeners
by singing two capital songs. Miss Kittle
Fullerton excited laughter by her funny
declamations, and Mr. C. V. Lewis kept everybody roaring at his irresistible dialect imitations, and the Misses Marshall charmed their
hearers with a couple of very excellently executed piano duets.

After the entertainment was over the guests

cuted plano duers.

After the entertainment was over the guests adjourned to the dining room of the hall, where a very tempting lunch had been prepared, which was succeeded by dancing, the Great Western Band furnishing music for the amuse-

FOR THE DAY NURSERY.

The Ladles Will Give a Dinner and Boznar for Its Henefit. A number of ladies met in the Eighth Street completed arrangements for a dinner and bazaar, to be given in Old City Hall on Washington's Birthday for the benefit of the Alle-

gheny Day Nursery.

The dinner will be given at noon, and in the evening the bazas will take place. There will be a chocolataire dri l, and music furnished for a promenade by Prof. Zitterbart. A number of booths will be handsomely fitted up and the ladies in charge will be attired in pretty cos-

Last year the Day Nursery cared for 1,052

AN AFTERNOON RECEPTION.

Mrs. Thomas Blair Welcomed to Her Future Home In This City. The ladies of the East Liberty Valley turned out yesterday afternoon to attend the recepof Mrs. Harvey Childs, Jr., of Shadyside, The gathering was given in honor of Mrs.

The gathering was given in honor of Mrs. Thomas S. Blair, nee Miss Emma Parker, of Chicago. The latter, it will be remembered, was married January 16 to Thomas S. Blair, the young business man of this city.

The young couple have just returned from their wedding trip, and the reception was given to welcome the bride to her future home on Western avenue, Allegheny.

A Ball and a Banquet.

The members of Pittsburg Council No. 117, Jr. O. U. A. M., celebrated the eighteenth anniversary of the organization of their Council, in Central Turner Hall, Forbes street, last night, by giving a grand ball and banquet. There were about 250 couples in the grand march, and the entertainment furnished a few hours of delightful pleasure to all present.

The Cantata of "Judith" was rendered last evening at Masonic Hall, Allegheny, under the ction of the author and comp V. Hoelsche. A large audience was present. The proceeds are for the benefit of the Young People's Christian League's syndicate fund. The entertainment will be repeated this even-

Progressive Euchre Parties. Mrs. W. H. House, of Center avenue, gave a progressive cuchre party yesterday afternoon. The affair was very pleasant, and continued

from 2 until 5 o'clock.
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Kinney entertained the Shadyside Euchre Club at their residence, on South Hiland avenue, East End, last A very pleasant children's party was give

A very plastic transfer of the residence of Mr. Sullivan Johnson, on Western avenue, Allegheny. Over 100 invitations were issued and about 80 persons were present. Prof. Tony White entertained the children with a delightful "Punch and Judy" show. A Sewickley Entertalament. An entertainment was given at the Sewickley Opera House, last night, for the benefit of the local public school library. Some good local talent participated, with outside performers. The attendance was very good.

ODDITIES OF LEGISLATION.

THE Kansas Legislature has been petitioned for a law authorizing the lynching of horse A MAN in the Indiana Legislature proposes

that the State shall investigate the relation of the groundhog to the weather. A Wisconsin Assemblyman has introduced humane bill that cows shall be milked twice

a day except when milked by calves. THE Nebraska Legislature has before it a measure for the artificial production of rain-storms by means of explosives and artiflery. THE Pennsylvan'a Legislature is considering an anti-treating bill; also a law to prevent

eigarette smoking by persons under 16 years of A BILL before the Nevada Legislature makes it a misdemeanor for any woman to "wear a hat at any theater of greater height than three

THE California Legislature has evolved a new rord. It is "difflequibble," meaning a flank attack on a main question by criticising some

THE New Jersey Legislature is considering a bill which forbids under heavy penalties any employer asking an employe whether or not he

CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

-A Massachusetts ludy boasts of having made 799 pies during the past year. -One grower in Oviedo, Fla., lost 6,000

boxes of oranges by dropping during the late -A bill has been introduced in the

Alabama Legislature prescribing the study of State history in the public schools. -In China people in easy circumstances

buy their coffins long before they need them, and exhibit them as ornamental pieces of fur--It has been calculated that not less than

20,000,000 of meteors, each large enough to be visible as a "shooting star," enter our atmos -The Hessian fly is destroying the wheat crop in Central Illinois. In some places whole

fields have been destroyed. The open but freezing weather is also aiding in the work of -The Paris Academy of Science is just now excited over a plant called Colocasia. This

plant often exhibits a trembling or a vibrating motion without any apparent cause, and as many as 100 or 120 vibrations have been ob-served in a single minute. -The Paris Figuro says that the Illusrated London News will erect an exact re-

production of Shakespeare's house at Strat-ford-on-Avon for its headquarters at the Paris Exposition this year. The intention is to make the copy complete in every detail. -A red-cheeked, rusty-looking old gentleman bought a bag of shorts at a Bangor, Me., store not long ago, and the new clerk re-fused to let him take them till he had paid. He afterward found out that his customer was an ex-Vice President of the United States.

-This advertisement appeared in a Rome, ora., paper: "Wanted—A couple who wish to marry to call on Justice Walter Harris in his new office over Bass & Hill's real estate office. He has received his commission, and a ready to perform marriage ceremonies at a very low rate." Ga., paper: "Wanted-A couple who wish to

-A gentleman in Columbus, Ga., has a razor which has been in constant use 104 years. It bears a close resemblance to a broadax, but does good service yer, and may cut many a whisker before it is finally laid away among the relies of bygone days or used for triuming

School an elecutionist of some power had been reading and reciting for the entertainment and reading and rectaing for the entertainment and instruction of the school, and among other selections was one more or less familiar to the Indians. After the entertainment had closed an Indian girl, in all seriousness, asked: "Did that man read to show how it ought to be read, or how it ought not to be read?" -In the Ponce de Leon Hotel refrigerator, in St. Augustine, Fla., are 500 bottles of cham-

pagne and other wines which are kept at a tem

pagne and other wines which are kept at a temperature almost to the freezing point. Fine old sherry of the vintage of 1823 and 1816, and old white and Dom Pedro and numerous other brands of wines of great age and rare flavor fill the shelves around the room. One hundred silver champagne coolers, costing the sum of \$15 each, are used in the freezing of champagne for guests at dinner. -The report of Adjutant General Drum places the numerical strength of the New York State militia at 13,582, the greatest in the Union. Pennsylvania is second, with 8,351, and Ohio third, with 5,827. The fourth in line is Onlo third, with 4,527. The fourth in line is South Corollina, which has 5,385, or only 322 less than Ohio, although the unorganized militin of the two States are 115,000 and 450,000 respect-tively. Massachusettes comes next, with 5,102, but the sixth State might lead to some random

out the sixth State might lead to some random guessing, as it is Georgia, which surpasses Illinois by a few hundred. Little New Jersey, always an enthusiastic military State, follows, having 4,184 organized militia, against the 4,219 of Illinois, with Chicago to help. The next is California. -The ingenious plan proposed by a Ber lin inventor, of a simple and inexpensive ele-vator for private dwellings in place of the ordinary staircase, has attracted some atten-tion as a long-felt desideratum. It is on the principle of the inclined railway, and the otive power is furnished by the city water, which is applied in the cellar; each flight has its separate chair, so that, for example, one person can ascend from the first to the second

person can ascend from the first to the second story while another is on his way from the second to the third, or still another is descending from the lifth to the fourth. The chair, being only of the width of the human body, requires but little space, and still leaves a free passage for any who wish to walk up or down, instead of riding. It is set in motion by a simple pressure upon one of its arms, while after it has been used it slides back to the bottom step, its descent being regulated in such a manner that the carrying of a passenger is a matter of entire safety. The motive power is, of course more or less expensive, according to the co-of water, this being, it is stated, in Berlin, it the rate of a little more than one-tenth of cent only for each trip. -Nearly five years ago the steamship Germania, of the Lloyd line, departed from Hague bound for New York. On board were

over 1,600 passengers and a highly valuable cargo. The steamship never reached port. No given up for lost several years ago, the particulars of her fate were never known. The other uiars of her fate were never known. The other afternoon, while walking along the beach of Hassler's Haven." southeast of Melbourne, Fla, Frank P. Hassler found a wine bottle lying on the sands. It was almost covered with barnacles and moss. On picking it up he found it had been securely corked. Scraping the slimy moss off the bottle, two pieces of paper were seen inside. The neck of the bottle was broken off and the papers withfrawn. One was a blank bill of lading of the steamer Germania, Lloyd line, printed in German. The other paper was simply brown wrapping paper, one side of which was covered with writing in German, the characters being almost ting in German, the characters being almost withing in Canada. Illegible. After much trouble the following translation was made: "The steamship Germania is on fire and sinking. Gale blowing and all boats swamped. All hope is gone. Johann Weinbergg, Stuttgart, Germany, April 17, 1884."

CLIPPED BITS OF WIT.

Client (in New York law office some weeks hence)-I have now laid the whole case Lawyer Cleveland (absently)—Dan, what is your opin—(recovering himself) Sir, 1 will take the matter under advisement. Call around to-mor row. - Chicago Tribune.

Love's Young Dream .- Little girl (at school)-What did the teacher send you here for Little boy-She said I was bad and must con ver and sit with the girls. "Hike you. Can you stay long?"
"Guess not. I wasn't very bad,"
"Well, you be badder next time,"—New York

Weekly. Theory and Practice.-Mistress-Mercy on me, what a kitchen! Every pot, pan and dish is dirty, the table looks like a junk shop, and— why, it will take you a week to get things cleaned

up! What have you been doing?
Servant—Sure, mum, the young leddles has lust
been down here showing me how they roast a
pointo at the cooking school.—New York Weekly. A .- Come, now, old chappie, why so sad?

B .- I have been unfortunate in love. A.—How's that? Say on.
B. (dolefully)—You see, my first aweetheart died, the second took the vell, and the third— (heaves a sigh) --- ah! A.-Well, the third?
B.-The third became my wife!-Manufg-

faltiges. A Clew at Last .- Police Captain-You are working on the murder of Greatman, ain't

. Well, I see by the papers that a fellow who lives in the alley around the corner has confessed that he is the murderer."
"By Jinks! Maybe that's a clew."-Philadel

Mr. Brefe Less-Did you read the account

of my herole rescue of a child from under the feet of a runaway team? Miss Edith—No. I think not. Mr. Brefe Less—Oh, yes, the paper had nearly a quarter of a column about it, headed "Heroism of a Prominent Young Attorney." Miss Edith-Why, yes, I saw the headlines, but I never dreamed of it being you!-Terre Huste

A Horrifying Blunder.-Mrs. De Pink-Oh! oh! I shall go distracted.

Mr. De Pink (springing to her side)—Mereiful "The washerwoman has made a mistake and sent me one of Mrs. Westend's lace handkerheavens! What has happened?

"Well, what of 112" "
"What of 112" What of 112 Oh you-you Why, Mrs. Westend must have received my mis-erably cheap imitation lace handkerchief, and it has my name on it."—Philodelphia Record.

A young gentleman took his sister, a wee miss, the other day to see a family in which he is a regular caller. The little girl made herself quite at home, and exhibited great fondness for one of the young ladies, hugging her heartily. "How very affectionate she is, " said the lady of

the house.

"Yes, just like her brother," responded the young lady, unthinkingly.

Paterfamilias looked up sternly over his spects.

ion in the family circle.-Londo

cles, the young gentleman blushed, and the